



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE AMENDMENT SECURES \$200 MILLION FOR LIBERIAN AID

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Senate today passed an amendment proposed by Senator Lincoln Chafee to provide \$200 million to be used toward humanitarian needs in Liberia. The legislation amended the proposed Iraq supplemental spending bill, and will redirect the funds from Iraq to Liberia.

“The people of our country, and in particular Rhode Island, have strong ties to the people of Liberia,” Chafee said. “The Liberian constitution is modeled after our own, and we share many of the same ideals. We have made a commitment to Liberia, and can now follow through on it. The people of this country are in dire need, and this money will go a long way to stabilize the West African region as a whole. In fact, the respected International Crisis Group has called Liberia “the eye of the regional storm,” a nation that has sponsored insurrections abroad to protect its interests at home.” Chafee continued.

The Chafee amendment shifts \$200 million from the Iraq supplemental spending bill to Liberia without changing the overall size of the legislation. \$100 million will come from the “Emergency Fund for Complex Foreign Crises,” with the additional \$100 million being taken from wherever in the \$20 billion reconstruction funding that the Department of Defense sees fit. This second \$100 million represents only one-half of one percent of the Iraq reconstruction fund and does not impact the funds for U.S. troops.

This money will join America with African and European allies (Britain and France in particular) in providing economic and political resources to help stabilize West Africa.

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